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CIA Official Tells Success Inside Russia

By William Keller

ASILOMAR (Monterey county), May 7 — The United States' intelligence network within the Soviet Union is far more effective than the Russians believe it to be, one of America's top intelligence experts said here today.

The unusual revelation was made at a rare public appearance by Lyman Kirkpatrick, inspector general of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA operations are so secret that not even Congress is told its size, scope or expenditure.

Kirkpatrick's statements were particularly significant, coming on the eve of the Geneva summit talks and on the day of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's

announcement that an American pilot had been captured inside Russia.

Kirkpatrick was asked whether the pilot, Francis C. Powers, a weather reconnaissance plane pilot for the U.S. National Aeronautics and

Space Administration, also works for the CIA.

"No comment," he said crisply.

"Will you say, then, that Powers is not a CIA agent?" he was asked.

"I can't answer that."

Similarly, Kirkpatrick refused to say whether he had knowledge that Powers earned \$2500 a month or that the pilot was under instructions to commit suicide.

"It's obvious that any comment anything said about a thing like this must come

directly from Washington, D. C.," Kirkpatrick said.

Kirkpatrick, a polio victim who uses a wheelchair, was here to address the second-day session of the 14th annual World Affairs Conference, which is studying the dilemma of "competitive co-existence" with Russia.

Even though our intelligence sources within the Soviet Union are better than the Russians believe, he said at a press conference, they still are not as effective as we would like them to be.

He would not expand that statement nor was he responsive to specific questions about the ability of American agents to detect Soviet nuclear tests.

He refused to answer questions about the number of American intelligence agents abroad or the size of the CIA budget.

He told the more than 1000 persons from 31 nations who are attending this three-day conference that the Communists have chosen Africa as the next major cold war battlefield.

"We should be under no delusions about their capabilities or intent," he said, adding that the Communists are building a forceful underground network to bring the Africans over to their side.

The conference, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Northern California, will conclude tomorrow.

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